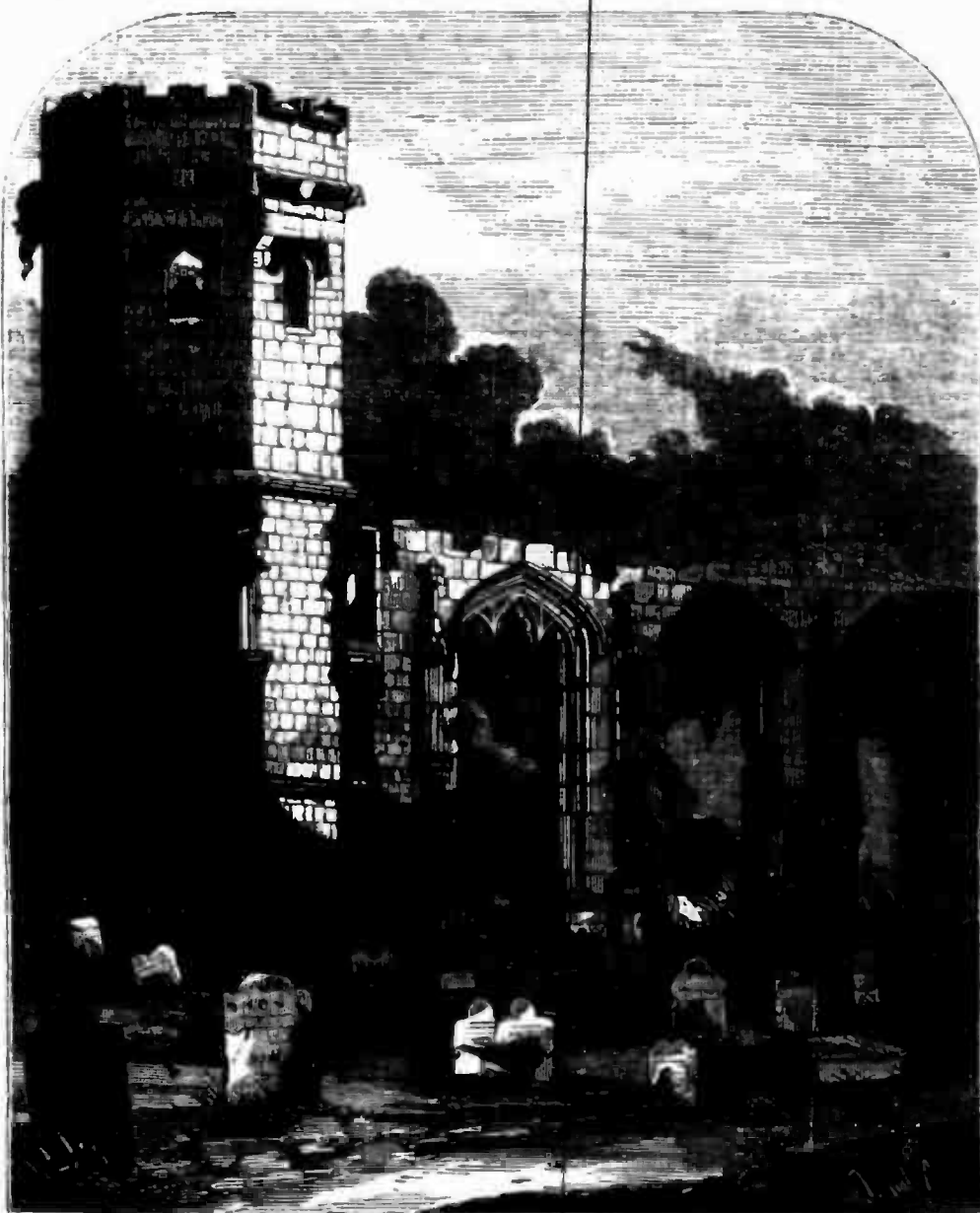


THE HOLY GHOST CHAPEL, BASINGSTOKE.

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ANY of our readers desirous of visiting some of the finest specimens of ancient ecclesiastical architecture to be found in the kingdom, would do well to take a trip by the South-Western Railway. It is not too much to say, that in few other parts of the kingdom can so many excellent examples be found in a like space. This will be seen at once, by enumerating those of the greatest importance,—such as the Cathedrals of Salisbury and Winchester, Romsey Abbey Church, Christ Church, the Church of St. Cross, and the ruins of Netley and Beaulieu. Many of these have been illustrated by us at different times, and we would now direct attention to the picturesque and beautiful ruins of the Holy Ghost Chapel at Basingstoke.

The following description of it is from the "Beauties of England and Wales," 1805:—

"The Holy Ghost Chapel is so called from its having been connected with a brotherhood or guild of the Holy Ghost, instituted by Sir William Sandys, Knight, afterwards the first Lord Sandys, and Fox, Bishop of Winchester, under a license from Henry VIII. This fraternity was dissolved in the first year of the

reign of Edward VI., and its possessions vested in the Crown; but in the first year of the reign of Philip and Mary a brotherhood was again established here, and the former possessions regranted, for 'the maintenance of a priest for the celebration of Divine service, and for the instruction of the young men and boys of the town of Basingstoke.' About the commencement of the reign of James I. the brotherhood became extinct, and during the confusions of the Civil Wars the chapel estate was seized by the Parliament, and the school shut up; but through the care of Bishop Morley, the estate was again restored about the year 1670. The site of this chapel is traditionally said to have been occupied by a religious structure from the period of the Saxon times; and although the present building is generally ascribed to the above Sir William Sandys, the opinion of a celebrated draughtsman and antiquary, Mr. Carter, seems to countenance the report of its having been erected much earlier. 'The style of the architecture,' he observes, 'appears of the day of Edward IV.' The design, though small, is much enriched, and among the ornaments are many with Roman and Grecian forms, which shows that examples of this sort had been earlier introduced among us than is

generally thought; however, it is not impossible but that many of the carvings, with some shields of arms, were added in the reign of Henry VIII., in consequence of repairs or alterations taking place. Camden describes it as having been erected by Sir William Sandys, and particularly mentions the roof as being excellently adorned from Scripture history. The only parts now standing (1805) are the south and east walls, with a hexangular tower at the south-west angle, in which was formerly a staircase. On the piers between the windows on the south side are long narrow pedestals with niches rising above them. The angles of the tower are similarly decorated; the walls are of brick, cased with freestone. The effect arising from the elevated situation of these ruins is beautiful. The building appears first to have been dilapidated in the Civil Wars, and has been almost entirely neglected ever since.

The large regular apartment to the westward of the chapel is supposed by Mr. Carter to have been the body of the ancient church, to which the chapel was attached, constituting the chancel or choir."

It will be seen, by the above extract, that there is some difference of opinion as to the